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Naval Intelligence Analyst's Case On Spying Charges Goes to Jury

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BALTIMORE, Oct. 16 — Jury deliberations began today in the trial of Samuel Loring Morison, a former naval intelligence analyst accused of espionage by passing classified photographs to a British publication.

Deliberations began at 5 P.M. after the defense rested its case, but at 6:15 Federal District Judge Joseph H. Young said the jury had asked to adjourn for the evening and would resume deliberations at 10 A.M. Thursday.

In closing arguments, Robert Muse, the defense attorney, portrayed Mr. Morison as a patriotic man who passed information to the British publication, Jane's Defence Weekly, because he wanted the public informed. "You think that the Government just as a matter of course doesn't have leaks constantly?" Mr. Muse asked.

The prosecutor, Michael Schatzow, countered that Mr. Morison was a "petty, vain, arrogant person" who had overstepped his bounds.

"Who was he to make the decision about this document?" the prosecutor asked.

The Government has argued that Mr. Morison gave the photographs to Jane's to try to ingratiate himself with its editors and try to win a full-time job on its staff.

Central to the case are three satellite photographs of a Soviet ship under construction, taken in July 1984 and classified as secret. Mr. Morison is charged with espionage and theft of government documents in connection with the photographs given to Jane's.

Soviet Advantage Alleged

The prosecution has said the photographs could have provided the Soviet Union with updated information on the satellite technology and intelligence procedures that produced them.

The defense in Mr. Morison's trial presented no evidence to dispute the allegation that he gave Jane's the photographs. But defense witnesses testified that the Soviet Union could have learned nothing from the photographs that it did not already know.

The defense also presented evidence that Government officials often shared

classified information with news reporters.

In his closing argument, Mr. Muse said, "The Sam Morison's of the world" regularly gave information to the press. Later he added, "You just don't make that leap and classify him as a criminal."

Mr. Morison, 41 years old, was an intelligence analyst at the Naval Intelligence Support Center in Suitland, Md., at the time of his arrest in October 1984. He is also accused of unauthorized possession of secret information in his home.

Weekly Intelligence Reports

Those documents were excerpts of weekly intelligence reports, concerning a 1984 explosion at a Soviet military installation. The prosecution says he used those documents to prepare a memo for Jane's, which was incorporated into a story.

The defense rebutted the Government's assertion that such information on the explosion was "closely held" in the summer of 1984.

The final defense witness this morning was a reporter for The Guardian newspaper in Britain, Harold H. Jackson, who was its Washington bureau chief in the summer of 1984. He testified that he was able to confirm and write a story on the explosion in half a day based on a number of sources.

After the defense rested, the prosecution called two rebuttal witnesses, both testifying on the significance of the satellite photographs.

The witnesses were apparently called to respond to the testimony of Roland S. Inlow, a retired Central Intelligence Agency official, who told the jury Tuesday that the release of the photographs "would cause no damage or injury to the United States."

But today Richard James Kerr, associate deputy director for intelligence at the C.I.A., said the photographs could have provided Soviet analysts with "hard, documentary, graphic evidence" of the current operational status of the satellite system.

"What it does is update their knowledge to a considerable degree," he said.